

The Willits News

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CITY SETTLES WITH RIVER WATCH

City pays River Watch \$60,000 to conclude law suit

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The city of Willits and California River Watch agreed on June 11 to settle the lawsuit filed against the city in June 2013. The terms of the agreement include the city paying \$60,000 to River Watch "as full reimbursement for River Watch's investigative and attorney's fees and costs."

The city also denies "each and all of the claims and allegations" made by River Watch cited in the law suit.

In return for said reimbursement, River Watch agrees not to pursue any other legal actions against the city for violations of the Clean Water Act which occurred prior to the settlement. River Watch also agrees not to file any future lawsuits against

the city for similar violations for a period of 7 years. River Watch does maintain the right to pursue legal action should the city violate the terms of the agreement.

In addition to the \$60,000 payment, the city agreed to assess all of its sewer collection lines within 5 years of sources of leakage into and out of the piping; the city agrees to follow its own sanitary sewer management plan, including reporting; the city agrees to prioritize the repair of deteriorated sewer lines to ensure the worst segments located near a waterway are repaired or replaced within 2 years; the city will set up a \$35,000 revolving loan fund for property owners needing to replace deteriorated sewer pipes on their property.

Other terms included notifying the city of any possible leakage.

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36 South St.

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ing River Watch when the city's pending reclaimed water irrigation plan is sent

to the Regional Water Quality Control Board to allow River Watch to comment upon it.

In the lawsuit River Watch cited potential leakage from the city's sewer facility into Outlet Creek.

The city agrees to provide River Watch an advance opportunity to review and approve any testing protocol along Outlet Creek to determine the extent, if any, of this possible leakage.